

Lance Corporal Johnson, a member of the weapons company of the 3rd Battalion, Second Marine Division based at Camp Lejeune, NC, was killed along with one other marine when a roadside bomb detonated as their unit was traveling from Ramadi.

Philip Johnson was the consummate American patriot. He dedicated his life to the U.S. Marine Corps and took immense pride in serving his country. As a little boy, Philip dreamed of being a marine and wasted no time in pursuing his goal. He joined a youth education and service organization named the Westover Young Marines at the age of 11, where he attained the rank of staff sergeant and served as a role model for younger members. Many who knew him remember his lifelong love of the Marine Corps, but they also remember him as a focused and thoughtful young man with a drive to help people. Philip was active in his church and committed to his faith.

Above all, Philip was eager to serve his country, so shortly after graduating from Enfield High School in 2005 he fulfilled his childhood dream by enlisting in the Marine Corps. As a marine, he continued to exhibit the exceptional determination and focus that defined his youth. Philip attained the rank of lance corporal in less than a year, an impressive feat that speaks volumes about his dedication to the Marine Corps.

Philip Johnson was a model marine, prepared to fight America's worst enemies and deeply committed to both the Corps and our Nation. Lance Corporal Johnson and others like him have made the ultimate sacrifice so that their fellow Americans can live in peace and security, and for that, we should be eternally grateful.

So today I salute Philip Johnson for his unwavering commitment to our Nation and the principles for which it stands. He was a young man of exceptional integrity and will be greatly missed. I wish to extend my deepest sympathies to his parents, Louis and Kathy, his sister, Jessica, and to all those who knew and loved him.

#### ARMY PFC NICHOLAS MADARAS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I wish to speak in honor of U.S. Army PFC Nicholas Madaras, of Wilton, CT, who was killed in Iraq on September 3, 2006. He was 19 years old.

Private Madaras, a member of the 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, was fatally wounded when a bomb detonated near his dismounted patrol in Baqouba, Iraq.

A 2005 graduate of Wilton High School, Nicholas excelled both in the classroom and on the soccer field, where he started for 3 years and served as the team manager. Among the students, teachers, and coaches, he was known as a genuine person, one who led by example and cared about the people around him.

Nicholas enlisted in the Army shortly before graduation and arrived in Iraq in February of this year. He was proud to be a soldier and approached his assignment as a driver of a Humvee in a security escort with the same leadership and intensity that he brought to the soccer field. Despite the unimaginable hardships of war, Nicholas never lost his generous spirit. He persuaded his father to mail dozens of used soccer balls to his base because he could not stand to see the local children kicking tin cans. This act of kindness in the midst of cruelty and chaos clearly demonstrated the character of this exemplary young man.

PFC Nicholas Madaras was a patriot in the best sense of the word. He and others like him have given their lives in defense of our Nation's principles, and for that, all of us in Connecticut and across America owe them a deep debt of gratitude.

I salute Private Madaras for his tremendous service to our country, and wish to offer my deepest sympathies to his parents, William and Shalini, his sister Marie, his brother Christopher, and to everyone who knew and loved him.

#### NATIONAL CAPITAL TRANSPORTATION AMENDMENTS ACT

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this legislation, the National Capital Transportation Amendments Act of 2006, authorizes a total of \$1,500,000,000 in matching Federal funds over the next 10 years to help sustain the Federal Government's longstanding commitment to the Washington Metropolitan area's Metrorail system.

In March, 2006, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority celebrated the 30th anniversary of passenger service on the Metrorail system. Since service first began in 1976, Metrorail has grown from a 4.6-mile, five-station, 22,000-passenger system into the Nation's second busiest rapid transit operation. Today the Metrorail system consists of 106.3 miles, 86 stations and carries more than 100 million passengers a year. The Metrorail system provides a unified and coordinated transportation system for the region, enhances mobility for the millions of residents, visitors, and the Federal workforce in the region, promotes orderly growth and development of the region, enhances our environment, and preserves the beauty and dignity of our Nation's Capital. It is also an example of an unparalleled partnership that spans every level of government from city to State to Federal.

As the largest employer in this region, the Federal Government has had a longstanding and unique responsibility to support the Metro system. This special responsibility was recognized more than 40 years ago in the National Capital Transportation Act of 1960, when Congress found that "an improved transportation system for the National Capital region is essential for

the continued and effective performance of the functions of the Government of the United States." Today more than a third of Federal employees in this region rely on Metrorail to get to work, and at rush hour, more than 40 percent of Metro's riders are Federal employees. The service that WMATA provides is also a critical component of Federal emergency evacuation plans for the region. The Federal Government's interest in Metro is "unique and enduring."

It took extraordinary perseverance and effort to build the 106-mile Metrorail system. From its origins in legislation first approved by the Congress during the Eisenhower administration, three major statutes—the National Capital Transportation Act of 1969, the National Capital Transportation amendments of 1979, and the National Capital Transportation amendments of 1990—were enacted to provide Federal and matching local funds for construction of the system. In addition, in ISTEA, TEA-21 and most recently in SAFETEA-LU, we made the Metrorail eligible for millions of dollars in Federal funds annually to maintain and modernize the system, and provided an additional \$104 million for WMATA's procurement of 52 rail cars and construction of upgrades to traction power equipment on 20 stations to allow the transit agency to expand many of its trains from six to eight-cars.

But the system is aging and has been experiencing increasing incidents of equipment breakdowns, delays in scheduled service, and unprecedented crowding on trains. In 2004, WMATA released a "Metro Matters" report which found a \$1.5 billion shortfall in funding over 6 years to meet WMATA's capital and operating needs. A blue-ribbon panel, sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Greater Washington Board of Trade and the Federal City Council, published a report a year later which concluded that WMATA faces an average annual operating and capital shortfall of approximately \$300 million between fiscal year 2006 and fiscal year 2015.

This legislation seeks to provide additional Federal funds to help close this gap. To be eligible for any Federal funds that may be appropriated annually under this legislation, the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia must first enact the required Compact amendments and either establish or use an existing dedicated funding source, such as Maryland's transportation trust fund, to provide the local matching funds. The legislation is still subject to the annual appropriations process, and it is my hope that Federal funding authorized under this act will be forthcoming in future years. I urge adoption of the legislation.

#### PREVENTING CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

Mr. LEAHY. The heart wrenching reports of civilian casualties in Iraq,